

Chapter 10

1958-1963

[From here onwards, the writer generally writes much less than she did in earlier years. Perhaps the loss of her husband had taken away some of her enthusiasm, perhaps working as part of a co-operative did the same, perhaps it was a consequence of her advancing age, perhaps all three factors played a role.]

1958

January 8. The house of Jan Novotný, No. 62, was burnt out.

January 10. It was announced over the loudspeakers that each member of the Standard Agricultural Co-operative should deliver his prescribed quantity of animal feed to the co-operative store by the mill. I had to deliver 45kg of grain, 89kg of potatoes, and 89kg of turnips.

January 16. I delivered one pig of weight 105kg (net). This fulfilled my quota for the whole of 1958, but the money, 651 crowns, would be taken by the SAC.

Non-members of the SAC were allowed to slaughter a pig at home if they had fulfilled their meat delivery quota for 1957. Members had in addition to have fulfilled their commitments to the co-operative in respect of crop seed and animal feed.

The first two-thirds of January had been mild and wet, almost springlike. In the last third it started to freeze and temperatures dropped to 15 degrees below zero, but there was no snow.

February. At the start of the month it froze, 4–5 degrees below zero. There was snow on February 7, but it soon thawed and temperatures climbed to plus 10–15 degrees. At the very end of the month temperatures fell again to minus 10 degrees, and there was a fall of snow.

March. During the night of March 11 there was a heavy snowstorm, which lasted until midday on March 12. People could not get to work, and the buses stopped running. The temperature was minus 9.

At the end of March, the SAC made a first payment of 7 crowns for each unit of work done (the planned total payment for the year was 14 crowns). [The way the SAC worked is not specifically described and has to be inferred from this and subsequent entries, but it would appear that members were paid a fixed amount for each unit of work soon after they did it, these payments normally being made monthly, and then received a further “dividend” payment, again in proportion to the number of work units each had done, when the profits for the year had been calculated.]

For milk which we members of the co-operative were taking to the collection centre, we received one third of the money and the co-operative received two thirds. For the egg quota which this year we still had to fulfil, we would not receive a penny. The co-operative would take it all. We would receive payment only for the eggs which we delivered from our private plots, which amounted to 170.

There was much snow throughout March, and we could not start on field work. Temperatures fell to 4–10 degrees below zero.

April 4. The SAC started preparations for sowing.

April 8. The SAC started sowing, and we members set to work. We were called to scatter powder, some walked behind the sowing machine, and others sorted the potatoes for planting.

April had delivered plenty of rain, but it had been very cold and April did not give May half a leaf. The trees were bare.

May 3. The apricot trees in the gardens started to come into bloom.

May 8. Frant. Kaňa, the step-brother of my late husband, died.

May 19. We moved the cows to a new cowshed which had been adapted from the barns of Pavel Buček at No. 42, Jos. Pacas at No. 43, and Barnabáš Chalupa at No. 44.

The working morale of the people was very good and everyone wanted to work so that they would have a lot of work units to their credit, to the point where envy and quarrelling broke out.

The SAC was divided into two working groups. In the first group, the leader or “agronomist” was Antonín Svoboda of No. 80, and in the second group Josef Juříček of No. 126. The women in each group were divided into three teams, each with a team leader. The team leaders received orders from

the agronomists, and transmitted them to the workers in their teams.

May 27. The SAC started singling beet.

May 30. Singling of sugar beet and turnips finished. Singling of one measure of sugar beet counted as four work units.

May was wholly dry and warm up to the night of May 30, when there was some welcome rain.

The first two-thirds of June were dry and warm. After June 20 there were rains, which continued until the end of the month.

July 15. The state farms started the harvest.

July 16. The Těšany SAC started to harvest the rye. Because there had been no rain in the spring months, the corn was short and sparse, but the June rains had resulted in the bearing of good ears. However, the yield would be poorer, and there would be little straw.

July 29. During the afternoon, a thunderstorm swept in from the west, with high winds which broke down and uprooted many trees. They also blew out and completely destroyed the roof of a new pigsty which had been built opposite the new cemetery behind the mill.

July 31. There were problems threshing the corn, because the machinery depot sent us old and unrepaired threshing machines.

August 19. Dear old Anděla Horáčková of No. 163 drowned in a concrete receptacle for rain water. [She is described as “stařečka”, which is an affectionate diminutive of “stařenka”, old woman. Overtones of this kind are not easily conveyed in English.]

August 23. The Těšany SAC finished threshing all the corn. According to the notes of the officials keeping the tally, 17½ waggonloads of wheat and 19 waggonloads of barley were threshed.

The first half of September was fine and dry. The second half was wet.

On the SAC, potatoes were being lifted. Their yield was very good, as was that of maize.

October 11. We gathered the grapes. The yield was very good, but as a result of the wet weather many of the grapes were rotten. Sugar content was 15–18 degrees.

October had been very wet, which severely delayed the lifting of potatoes and beet.

The whole of November was wet. Potatoes, beet, and maize had to be harvested under difficult conditions, but the job was done.

At the beginning of December, it started to freeze and temperatures fell to 4–10 degrees below zero, but only until the middle of the month. Then the weather was mild until the end of the year.

1959

As in all previous years, the New Year started with wishes of good luck and prosperity – God grant that it be so.

The weather in January was mild. There was only a light frost on a few days, and no snow apart from a small shower.

February 3. The co-operative accounts for 1958 were finalized. We had already received 7 crowns per unit of work done, and now we received a final dividend of 3 crowns. This meant that because of various initial difficulties, the co-operative could not pay out the intended total of 14 crowns. In kind, we received 1kg of wheat, 35dkg of rye, and ½kg of maize in cones, again per unit of work done. Furthermore, those who had given cows to the co-operative received half a litre of milk daily (I had given a cow with calf of weight 600kg in value class 1-B).

But many members did not receive a penny. Those who had failed to fulfil their meat delivery quota for 1958 were docked at the rate of 16 crowns per kilogramme shortfall.

The beginning of February had been mild. After February 10, it started to freeze, and temperatures fell to 12–14 degrees below zero, but from February 20 until the end of the month the weather was already springlike.

March 6. The SAC started sowing.

March 8. A reduction in retail prices was announced.

Item		Old price (crowns)	New price
Sugar, granulated	1kg	10.40	8.80
Sugar, lump	"	11	9.60
Butter, selected	"	48	44
Butter, first quality	"	42	38
Butter, second quality	"	36	34
Lard, raw	"	29	25
Lard, rendered, first quality	"	32	28
Lard, rendered, second quality	"	28	22
Bacon	"	31	28
Flour, coarse ground	"	4.40	3.80
Flour, fine ground	"	3.50	3.20
Rice, selected	"	11	10
Rice, first quality	"	7.20	6
Rice, second quality	"	6	5
Soap, household, 60%	250g	2.15	1.80
Soap, turpentine	"	3.60	2.30
Soap, Helada [a brand name]	"	4.40	4

There were also reductions in the prices of textile goods, footwear, material for suits and dresses, and household items such as washing machines, spin driers, vacuum cleaners, cameras, and watches.

March 30. The apricot trees came into bloom.

April 12. The fruit trees were in full bloom.

April 21. There was a frost, 7 degrees below zero.

April 22. Ditto, 6 degrees below.

April 27. The SAC ploughed back the beet, which had been growing well but was frostdamaged, and there would be no fruit because the flowers were frostdamaged.

May 4. The SAC ploughed back sugar beet which had already germinated and been hoed by private smallholders, and assigned them land elsewhere.

The weather in June was very favourable. There was plenty of rain, so the corn was promising a very good crop, and root crops were also doing well.

July 11. The SAC started to reap the corn, which this year had done very very well. The temperature today was 33 degrees above zero.

July 12. Temperature 34 degrees.

Today a third new bell, of weight 450kg, was consecrated, and in the afternoon the new cemetery was handed over for public use and its new principal cross was consecrated.

July 16. It started to rain, and rained almost every day.

July 31. The harvesting and threshing were going very slowly because of the incessant rain. The corn was sprouting in the sheaves and stooks.

August 2. The first funeral in the new cemetery was that of Gabriela Horáková of No. 16.

August 24. The SAC finished threshing. Because of the wet weather, the threshing had taken a long time. The corn was wet, and perhaps half of it remained in the straw.

August had been wet until August 15, and then dry until the end of the month.

September was wholly dry, and the potatoes had to be lifted dry.

October 1. Temperature 5 degrees below zero.

October 2. Temperature 6 below.

October 10. This was a Saturday, and we gathered the grapes. The crop was smaller this year, and

many growers found their grapes shrivelled and dry. We also had a smaller crop, but our grapes were healthy. Sweetness this year was 17–18–19 degrees, and the delivery quota was 17kg for each are after the fifth. This meant that if somebody had ten ares of vines, he had to deliver from five of them and could retain the other five for his own use. For grapes delivered as part of the compulsory quota, we received 3.40 crowns per kilogramme.

The SAC had already finished lifting the beet, which had done very poorly.

October had again been dry until the morning of October 29, when there was a short light shower. The drought had lasted since August 15.

November was again dry. There were two light showers.

December was wholly wet, and snow fell but did not lie. Warm weather predominated.

So finished 1959. People were not happy. Communal agriculture was not doing well, and the fields were covered in weeds. We could not wonder that sugar beet had failed to give the planned yield when the plants were overgrown with weeds and thistles.

Animal production too was failing. The cattle were infected by brucellosis, which was resulting in abortions. Nor were things doing too well in the pigsties. The sucklers were small, and there was very little hope of a good return.

The following inhabitants died during 1959.

Stanislav Ledba	No. 124
František Pavlíček	No. 276
Josef Příbyl	No. 256
Gabriela Horáková	No. 16
Jan Horák	No. 8
Ferdinand Svoboda	No. 285

1960

From the New Year, the compulsory delivery of 5kg of lard after a home pig slaughter was cancelled, and only the pigskin had to be delivered. Everyone was allowed to slaughter. The applicant had to buy stamps to the value of 27 crowns at the post office, the secretary at the council office stuck them to the permit, and everything was in order.

The weather was wet up to January 9. On that day it snowed, and the temperatures dropped to 7–10–15–20 and even to 25 degrees below zero. Then there was a thaw to the end of the month.

February 4. The annual meeting of the SAC took place, and we were presented with the trading figures for the year. As a result, the planned payment per work unit fell from 17 crowns to 9.40 crowns, and we would receive a final dividend of 40 haléř. [The diary does not detail all the payments made by the co-operative, but there is a summary of its first seven years of operation early in 1965.]

During the first half of February, it froze and temperatures dropped to 4–10–16–20 degrees below zero, but there was no snow. After the middle of the month, a thaw set in, and to the end of the month the weather was almost springlike.

March 12. After a recalculation, the final dividend was reduced from 40 haléř to 22 haléř, and this was all we received. The total payment for 1960 was therefore 9.22 crowns.

March 16. The SAC started to sow barley and peas.

The weather in March was pretty favourable. There were still frosts at the beginning of the month and on March 19 it snowed, but the snow did not lie.

From April 24, a reduction in retail prices was announced.

Item		Old price (crowns)	New price
Sugar, lump	1kg	9.60	9
Sugar, granulated	"	8.80	8.40
Sugar, icing	"	9	8.40
Rice, selected	"	10	8
Rice, first quality	"	6	5
Rice, second quality	"	5	4
Coffee, special	10dkg	22	20
Coffee, selected	"	19	18
Coffee, fine	"	17	16
Coffee, ordinary	"	15	14

There were also reductions in the prices of tinned fish, preserved fruit, fruit syrup, confectionery, and tea.

Also reduced were handbags, briefcases, stainless steel pots and pans, stainless steel cutlery, electrical goods, children's prams, cameras, television sets, radio receivers, linen, stockings, silk fabrics, and clothing.

Item		Old price (crowns)	New price
Man's suit, 50% wool	each	930-900-870	800
Lady's dress	"	245-226-200	155
Man's coat, 70% wool	"	432-403-370	310
Lady's coat, 70% wool	"	547-488-417	380
Cloth for men's suits, 100% wool	1 metre	479	400
"	"	423	350
Lady's dress material	"	140	120
"	"	100	80
Cloth for coats, 100% wool	"	350	320

There had now been several reductions in price, but as far as textiles were concerned the reductions applied only to the stock already held. Then new stock appeared, of allegedly better quality, which was as dear as it had been before the reductions. Thus men's shirts were still 60-80-100 crowns, and men's suits from good material 1200-1800 crowns or even more.

The weather in April had been favourable. On April 11 the apricot trees came into flower.

May was dry and cold up to May 20. After May 20 there were thunderstorms and rains.

May 29. A pilgrimage to the chapel had been announced [this would have been to the chapel built after the war by the returned political prisoners], but it did not take place because there had been a major outbreak of dysentery ["paratyf" in quotation marks in the original text, perhaps paratyphoid]. Every day, the ambulance was taking people to the hospital in Brno.

June 2. On Wednesday evening there was a thunderstorm over Těšany, with torrential rain. The flood of water from the neighbouring fields did great damage to the SAC gardening department. The windows of the hotbeds were broken, the duckboards from the hotbeds were broken and swept out, and the cultures planted out were flooded.

June had been very wet, and SAC field work was badly delayed. It had not been possible to finish singling the beet within the planned schedule, potatoes and maize had not been hoed even once, and the morale of the people was not good. The disappointing returns had embittered them, to the extent that many were asking to resign from the co-operative. They wanted to go to Brno to work, and nobody wanted to work in the fields.

The harvest started on July 20.

The management of the SAC used the loudspeakers to call on factory workers who were on holiday

to come and help the SAC with the harvest, and if the workers did not comply the SAC would use its prerogative and demand of their employers that they terminate their employment so that they would not be able to work other than in the SAC. The management would not want to resort to this if workers would come to their assistance willingly.

July had been wet, and the SAC could not get the hoeing in hand. The potato harvesting machine had to plough through potatoes which were overgrown and had not been hoed even once. Maize had not been hoed until now at the end of the month, and sugar beet had been hoed only once after thinning.

August was cold and wet like July. The harvest was still not finished, and in some places corn which had been cut by reaper-binder had not been stooked and sheaves lying on the ground were sprouting. The working morale of the people was not good, and the loudspeakers asked vainly for lots of people to go and bind the sheaves, to collect gherkins, and to go to the threshing machines.

Threshing was completed on September 15, and on September 17 the SAC arranged a harvest festival for its members. Two pigs were killed, of weight 120kg and 160kg, and 125 pies were baked. The festival was held in the large room at Rotnágľ's

September was seen plenty of rain, and field work was very prolonged.

October. The SAC asked members each to deliver 50kg of potatoes to the warehouse from their private plots, and thus to help fulfil the delivery quota of 9 waggonloads which the SAC itself could not fulfil.

The weather improved in October, and the sugar beet was lifted in fine weather.

The following inhabitants died during 1960.

January 18	Josefa Novotná	No. 239	64 years old
February 21	Helena Chaloupková	No. 193	80 years old
April 11	Anna Sedláčková	No. 163	47 years old
April 21	Jan Dostal	No. 54	63 years old
May 16	Josef Duda	No. 177	74 years old
May 17	Josef Drtil	No. 38	86 years old
June 8	Josef Sýkora	No. 29	60 years old
July 20	Vladimír Šmela	No. 246	66 years old
September 16	Marie Sedláková	No. 147	77 years old
September 20	Martin Turek	No. 39	81 years old
October 7	Josef Vahala	No. 240	33 years old
October 10	Josef Dosoudil	No. 242	86 years old
October 13	František Horák	No. 41	[no age given]
November 30	Růžena Vajová	No. 60	[no age given]

1961

The weather was mild up to January 12, when the temperature dropped to 8 below, then on January 19 to 17 below and on January 26 to 20 below. On the last day of the month a thaw set in.

February 1. The SAC paid a final dividend for 1960. We received 7 crowns for each work unit.

On Sunday February 5, the SAC held a "Co-operative Dance" for its members. Each member received, free of charge, an entrance ticket, a ticket for supper, and a ticket for one beer or two soft drinks (lemonades).

The weather in February was warm, 5–8–10 degrees above zero.

Right from the start of March the temperature rose, and on March 8 the co-operative started sowing.

March 12. International Women's Day was celebrated. All the elderly ladies of 75 and over were invited to the council office, where they were treated to refreshments and each received a headscarf.

The weather in March was beautiful up to March 19, with temperatures of 15–18 degrees above zero. After March 19 it got colder and April weather set in, with night frosts. Due to the spring weather, the willows were noticeably early, elders and other ornamental shrubs were already in leaf, and the apricot trees were blossoming in the sunlight in front of the houses.

The weather throughout April was fine, and temperatures rose to 20–22 degrees above zero. On April 27, the SAC started sowing mixed corn for animal feed.

May was dry and very cold, with substantial rain at the end of the month.

June 1. The festival of Corpus Christi was not allowed to be celebrated publicly, in other words we could not have a procession through the village, so the service was held in the church.

Everywhere, in towns and villages alike, there was a great shortage of meat and smoked meat. No meat at all was on sale during the week, and on Saturday the queue outside the shop started at midnight.

June 10. The SAC slaughtered four pigs and sold the meat to its members, up to 2kg each, for the feast of St Barnabas.

The first half of June was cold and very very wet. In the second half of the month the weather improved.

The harvest started on July 10. The weather from July 10 to July 20 was wet, then it cleared, and fine weather continued until the end of the month.

August 11. Our neighbour Frant. Vahala of No. 108, universally known as “Vahalička” [a typically affectionate Czech diminutive], died at the age of 91½. He was Těšany’s oldest inhabitant, had a very good memory, and could talk engagingly of how things used to be when he was young. He always spoke in the dialect which was spoken in Těšany a hundred years ago.

August 17. A group of Soviet guests (nine men, one woman) came to Těšany. The SAC killed a pig, and refreshments were provided in the meeting room of the council offices.

It was dry from August 15 right through September until October 18. On October 18 there was rain, which continued for three days.

The following inhabitants of Těšany died during 1961.

František Horák	No. 79
Olga Chalupníková	No. 265
Alžběta Kroupová	No. 192
Jiljí Janoušek	No. 64
Emilie Navrátilová	No. 235
František Vahala	No. 108
Filip Dosoudil	No. 10
Blažena Pacasová	No. 88
Václav Chlubna	No. 9
Františka Novotná	No. 47
Františka Viktorinová	No. 76

1962

January 13. Today Jožka’s son Květoslav married Jitka Petáková from Hodonín. The ceremony took place in Hodonín, but the reception was held at Dubňany.

And at the end of the month, on January 27, Jara’s son Josef married Libuše Zahrádková from Dubňany. The ceremony and the reception both took place in Dubňany.

The first two thirds of January had been quite mild. Towards the end of the month, the temperature fell to 13 degrees below zero.

February 1. The SAC paid a final dividend. We received 8 crowns per work unit.

During almost the whole of the month, flu raged in the towns and the villages. Schools, and even some factories and offices, were closed because the whole of the staff were off sick. There was a shortage of medicine in the chemists’ shops, all gatherings of people were forbidden, and even the churches were closed.

The temperatures in February dropped to 3–5–10 degrees below zero.

February 2. Jara celebrated his 50th birthday, and we all went. [This line is out of sequence in the original text, and was presumably slotted in at a later stage.]

Winter ruled throughout March. It snowed, and temperatures fell to 8–14 degrees below zero. After March 20 there was no more frost, but showers and sleet continued until the end of the month.

April 6. Sowing started.

The SAC changed the private plots. Non-members received plots in certain fields, and members who wanted to could hand over part or all of their plots for communal cultivation. [There is a further reference in September, and the implication seems to be that the plots remained to some extent private but the work and harvest were shared.] There was a seed barley delivery quota of 50kg per measure.

April 20. The apricot trees came into bloom.

The weather in April was quirky, with April showers and temperatures on some days reaching 28 degrees above zero. Towards the end of the month, night temperatures fell to 4 degrees below zero, day temperatures rose to 6–8 degrees above.

May 21. Work started on laying asphalt along our street as far as the main road to Moutnice, and also along the alley opposite. [The street had been metalled in 1917, but presumably this had been only a metalling with graded stones but no tarmac or asphalt surface.]

The whole of May had been wet and very cold.

June 23. Jara's daughter Anna, who was a teacher at the nine-year school at Velké Pavlovice, married Miroslav Vymazal from Vyškov [a town about thirty kilometres ENE of Brno], a teacher at the same school.

The whole of June had been dry, and the temperatures very variable. On some days, the day temperature rose to over 30 degrees, and the night temperature dropped towards zero.

July started even drier. It rained in the middle of the month and wet weather continued for a week, then it was dry until the end of the month.

The first half of August was dry, but on August 15, at 6 o'clock in the evening, there was a thunderstorm with hail, which came from the north-west and moved across part of the vineyards to the chapel. The vines in that part of the vineyards were 80% flattened, and the co-operative's ripe mixed corn was totally destroyed. After this storm, and apart from the odd shower, it was dry until the end of the month.

September. We received the dividend in kind. In previous years we had received 1½kg, inclusive of maize, per work unit. This year we received 1kg inclusive of maize. And from the communal sowing of private plots they gave us 500kg of barley per measure and 300kg of straw. The communal sowing of one measure counted as seven units of work, credit for which would be included in our payment.

September was wholly dry.

October was also dry up to the end of the month, when there was rain.

November was very very wet, and the beet, in whose harvesting the officials had previously taken no interest, was hard to lift in the rain and mud, and very hard to cart away from the fields.

(In October, Jos. Komínek, co-operative chairman, Barnabáš Petlák, agronomist, Barnabáš Chalupa, animal husbandry adviser, Frant. Dostal, in charge of the machinery pool, and three tractor drivers, had gone to the Soviet Union on a fourteen-day visit. The members of the co-operative rightly grumbled that the visit to Russia should have taken place at some other time and not at the time of hardest work, leaving three tractors lying idle for fourteen days.)

December 1. It started to freeze. The SAC still had a lot of beet to bring from the fields, and the beet tops had likewise not been taken away.

December 16. Every Sunday, the loudspeakers called on those who were working in Brno to join working parties and come to the co-operative to help load beet and beet tops.

And every day for a whole week, the loudspeakers called on members of the co-operative to gather maize, of which 15ha were still to be brought in. 3ha of chicory were frozen in the ground, and the SAC had done no ploughing for the spring (temperatures 10–16 below zero).

The delivery quota of lard from a home pig slaughter this year was 5kg for a co-operative member and 7kg for a non-member.

Six inhabitants of Těšany died during 1962.

January 11	Jenofefa Příbylová	No. 224	63 years old
April 11	Martin Buček	No. 84	64 years old
April 14	Jiří Jeřábek	No. 99	86 years old
May 17	Marie Špetová	No. 298	50 years old
August 5	Berta Šmelová	No. 246	68 years old
August 18	Jaroslav Buček	No. 5	71 years old

1963

January 7. Today the SAC finished harvesting the maize heads. This had been done with great difficulties, because on some days the temperature had fallen as far as 22 degrees below zero.

January 24. Josef Rychlík, son of brother Jaromír of No. 100, received the degree of “Structural Engineer” in the great hall of the Structural Engineering Faculty in Brno.

January 29. The temperature fell to 24 below.

February 2. The winter was harsh. The thermometer showed 25 below.

February 6. The annual meeting of the SAC was held, where the results of the whole year’s activity were reported to us. We would receive a final dividend of 5 crowns per work unit. The total dividend for the year was 15 crowns per work unit (we had already received 10 crowns per unit as the work was done) plus 1kg of corn including maize.

February 24 (Shrovetide). For the first time within memory, there were no Shrovetide festivities either on the Sunday or on the Monday. Previously (and still in the time of the first republic), Shrovetide had been celebrated for three days with masked merrymaking and music.

The temperatures in February had been very changeable, between zero and 25 below.

March 12. There was an election for a new chairman of the SAC. The previous chairman, Josef Komínek of No. 315, was dismissed by the district council for various underhand machinations, and in his place they appointed Ladislav Máša from Blažovice [a village some dozen miles ESE of Brno]. This was against the will of the members, who wanted Josef Komínek in spite of his faults.

March 17. A fire, caused by faulty electrical wiring, broke out at Šimon Menšík’s, No. 301, and consumed the whole roof.

Until March 10, night temperatures had been 4–10 degrees below zero and day temperatures 4–8 degrees above. Then, until the end of the month, night temperatures were from zero to 2 below and day temperatures 6–8–10 above.

March 31. It was wet. March had finished, and field work had still not started. The SAC was planting an additional vineyard.

April 8. After the foregoing warming, sowing started. Because it had started so late, the co-operative hurried ahead with it, and on April 13 it was completed.

April 21. The apricot trees came into bloom. Otherwise April was cold and dry right to the end.

In May there was plenty of rain, with thunderstorms. On May 25 and 26 there was a thunderstorm with very heavy rain, which inundated the sector to the west of the vineyards and did great damage.

The weather in June was very favourable, warm and with frequent rain, and so the corn was doing very well and promised a rich harvest.

July 17. The harvest started. The weather was very favourable. The whole month was dry, and temperatures rose to 30–33 degrees above zero.

August 19. Threshing finished. The corn had done very well, but the yield was not as good as had been hoped. The threshing had been done too quickly, the machines did not shake the corn properly, and a substantial part of the grain remained in the straw.

There was a very rich crop of gherkins, but people could not lay down enough for the winter because there was no pickling vinegar in the shops.

The whole month was dry until the last three days, which were wet.

September 30. Jenofeřa Dobrovolná, 53 years old, fell through an opening in the ceiling from the granary over the cowshed. She fell four metres on to a concrete floor, and was mortally wounded.

October 1. Mrs J. Dobrovolná of No. 1 died after being taken to hospital.

The weather was favourable. The beet was lifted without difficulty, and sowing was going well.

November 17. Linden trees were planted by the highway along our street.

During the week from November 18, apricot and apple trees were planted in the back vineyards. The SAC wanted to turn the whole of the vineyards into an orchard.

The weather in November had been favourable. The SAC had already finished the deep ploughing for the winter.

It started to freeze right at the beginning of December. To start with, the temperature was only 3–4 degrees below zero, but in the middle of the month it fell to 12–15 degrees below.

The following inhabitants died during 1963.

March 5	Josefa Křepelová	No. 32	77 years old
April 13	Vincenc Straka	No. 188	78 years old
April 13	Petroníla Vahalová	No. 300	86 years old
April 19	Eduard Novotny	No. 103	67 years old
May 17	Jan Vahala	No. 144	67 years old
May 19	Marie Přibyllová	No 256	[no age given]
May 30	Vlasta Vlasáková	No. 154	8-month-old child
June 1	Alois Skřička	[no number given]	18 years old (died tragically)
September 5	Leopold Dostál	No. 237	70 years old
September 25	Miroslav Novotny	No. 239	5-month-old child
October 1	Jenofeřa Dobrovolná	No. 1	53 years old